(b) whether a sizeable proportion of PDS supplies are diverted to open market and does not reach to the intended beneficiaries; and

(c) whether in view of the declining food stocks and the recent Government decision to import wheat to ensure adequate supplies for PDS, Government propose to maintain separate accounting for PDS operations and a separate for MSP operations in order to ensure transparency with regard to subsidy provided to consumers and subsidy provided to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Food subsidy expenditure increased from Rs.2450 crore in 1990-91 to Rs. 25,160 crore in 2003-04.

(b) An evaluation study of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) conducted by the Planning Commission covering eighteen major States has observed that out of the subsidized foodgrains under the TPDS there is leakage of about 19.71 per cent at the Fair Price Shops (FPS) level and about 16.67 per cent of the foodgrains is diverted through ghost cards. In addition, the TPDS suffers from diversion of subsidized grains to unintended beneficiaries (above poverty line (APL) households) because of errors of inclusion. However, the report is based on old primary data of 2001-2002. As several changes like introduction of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), change in the scale of issue, etc. have taken place since then it is difficult to totally rely on this report.

(c) No, Sir.

Consumer cases in A.P.

†2924. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases registered in the country particularly in the district courts of Andhra Pradesh during 2004-05 by the National Commission for Consumer Disputes Redressal;

(b) the details of total number of old cases pending in district courts of Andhra Pradesh as on 31st December, 2005, district-wise;

(c) whether delay in disposal of consumer cases in some districts of the State has been due to the posts of Chairmen and members of certain

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

consumer fora remaining vacant; inadequate basic infrastructural facilities or not setting up of district fora, so far;

(d) if so, the details of the destricts of the State suffering due to the shortcomings as mentioned above; and

(e) the details of efforts made to remove these shortcomings State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) As intimated by National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), the total number of cases registered in the country during 2004 and 2005 maintained calendar year-wise by them, is as under:

Year	No. of cases registered in the country	No. of cases registered in Andhra Pradesh
2004	1,68,305	7,344
2005	1,58,478	7,469

(b) Out of 1,54,274 original cases filed with District Fora in the State of Andhra Pradesh till 31.12.2005, 1,47,985 cases have been disposed of (96%) and a total of 6,289 cases were pending. A Statement containing the district-wise pendency is annexed (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Six posts of Presidents in District Fora at Adilabad, Medak at Sangareddy, Nalgonda, East Godavari at Rajamundry, West Godavari at Eluru and Visakhapatnam-I have fallen vacant between the period from July, 2005 to March, 2006. The reasons for the vacancies are the two Presidents have resigned from the posts, one President who came from Judicial Department (High Court of A.P.) has gone back to this parent Department and in respect of other three posts the term of Presidents has expired. Similarly, four posts of male members in the District Fora at Chittoor, East Godavari at Kakinada, Visakhapatnam-II, Krishna at Machilipatnam and five posts of female members in the District Fora at Guntur, Karimnagar, Nalgonda, Visakhapatnam I & II have fallen vacant during the period from July, 2005 to March, 2006 since the term of the members has expired.

(e) In Andhra Pradesh, the State Government has already initiated selection process for filling up these vacant posts. Moreover, the following

important efforts have been made by the Central Government to remove such shortcoming in all States/UTs:

(i) Though it is the responsibility of the State Governments to set up District Fora at District level and to ensure their smooth functioning, the Department of Consumer Affairs has been periodically taking up with the State Govts. and UT Administrations, at various levels impressing upon them to ensure smooth functioning of the consumer fora by providing adequate infrastructure and to fill up the vacancies of Presidents/Members on time.

(ii) In order to ensure that consumer fora do not remain non-functional, the State Governments have been advised to take following steps:

a. to initiate action well in advance for filling up of future vacancies of Members/Presidents and to maintain a standing panel of Members for immediate appointments.

b. To consider reappointment of eligible Presidents & Members having good track records.

c. Where District Fora are non-functional due to vacancies of Presidents/Members, States have been advised to club together neighbouring District Fora till regular arrangements are made.

d. Where delay/pendency in settling cases occurs due to shortage or non-availability of staff like stenographers, the States have been advised to engage the services of such staff on contractual basis.

e. To consider setting up of additional District Fora, wherever necessary.

(iii) In view of the financial constraints of the States/UTs, the Central Government has provided one time financial assistance of Rs. 61.80 crores during 1995-99 and another Rs. 10.20 crores in 2004-05 to the States/UTs to supplement their efforts for strengthening the infrastructure and other facilities of consumer fora.

(iv) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was amended in 2002 mainly to facilitate the Fora on quicker disposal of cases. The National Commission, with the approval of the Central Govt. has notified the Consumer Protection Regulations, 2005 to streamline the precedure for day today functioning of the consumer fora.

(v) In order to provide I.T. solutions to achieve e-governance, transparency and efficiency in the functioning of the consumer fora, a scheme for "computerization and computer networking of consumer forums in the country" has been launched in March, 2005 through National Informatics Centre (NIC) as a turn key project to be completed by March, 2007. The scheme will help in systematizing the process of various types of cases, data and generation of reports and also assist the National Commission in exercising better administrative control.

Statement

The district-wise number of cases pending in Courts in Andhra Pradesh

Sl.No.	Name of the District Forum	Number of cases pending
1.	Adilabad	31
2.	Ananthapur	78
3.	Chittoor-I	38
4.	Chittoor-II At Tirupathi	72
5.	East Godavari-I at Kakinada	301
6.	East Godavari-II at Rajahmundry	373
7.	Guntur	235
8.	Hyderabad-I	368
9.	Hyderabad-II	324
10.	Hyderabad-III	414
11.	Kadapa	63
12.	Karimnagar	478
13.	Khammam	356

Sl.No.	Name of the District Forum	Number of cases pending
14.	Krishna-I at Machilipatnam	53
15.	Krishna-II at Vijayawada	218
16.	Kurnool	109
17.	Mahboobnagar	27
18.	Medak at Sanga Reddy	133
19.	Nalgonda	23
20.	Nellore	249
21.	Nizamabad	186
22.	Prakasam at Ongole	156
23.	Ranga Reddy	96
24.	Srikakulam	313
25.	Visakhapatnam-I	456
26.	Visakhapatnam-II	553
27.	Vizianagaram	132
28.	Warangal	381
29.	West Godavari at Eluru	73
	TOTAL :	6289

Issue prices of rice and wheat

2925. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the price at which rice and wheat are issued to States under PDS;

(b) whether it is a fact that some State Government have fixed the sale price of rice lower than the issue price fixed by the Centre;

(c) whether Government would consider giving rice under PDS to States at price issued by the State Governments; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?